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# MARK SANFORD

SERVING SOUTH CAROLINA'S LOWCOUNTRY

**ANNUAL SHAREHOLDER'S REVIEW**

**2015**



Friends,

Greetings, and Happy New Year. One of my goals every day in Congress is to keep as many lines of communication open to hear your thoughts and concerns. Whether it's email, conventional mail, Facebook, or the telephone, please feel free to reach out to my team if there's any way we can be of assistance. Or if there's a particular piece of legislation you're concerned about, I'd like to know. In fact, I recently hosted a tele-town hall to discuss Syrian refugee resettlement, and the response was so overwhelming I'm hoping to host several more in the upcoming months. If you're interested in signing up, you can do so by [clicking here](#).

Before we get too far into the New Year, I wanted to share with you an update on some of the things we accomplished in 2015. There are many other activities from this year, but below you'll find our Annual Shareholder's Report that at least gives you a glimpse of what we have been able to do on your behalf. I hope you'll take a few moments to read and share your thoughts with me.

Take good care,



Mark

P.S. Here's a "By the Numbers" snapshot of my office in 2015...

### By the Numbers

-  **Open Door After 4** — 9 in Beaufort and Charleston Offices
-  **Satellite Office Hours** — 50 events hosted by staff
-  **Constituent Services** — 331 individual cases resolved
-  **Constituent Mail** — 27,876 pieces of mail sent
-  **Neighborhood Office Hours** — 30 events in 5 counties
-  **Coffee with Your Congressman** — 7 events hosted
-  **Congressional Office Allowance** — 23% returned to Treasury

# Debt, Deficits and Government Spending

*Nobel Prize winning economist Milton Friedman once observed that the ultimate measure of government was what it spent. While not the only measure, it is an important one because in many ways how free we are as individuals is determined by what we're compelled to pay to government each year.*

Voted against the **Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015**, which suspended the debt limit and authorized \$80 billion in additional spending. [Full vote explanation here.](#)



*Rep. Sanford Speaking on Two-Year Budget Deal*

Voted for **Protecting Americans Against Tax Hikes**, which was a major package of targeted tax breaks for businesses and families. In Washington-speak, they call it the “tax extenders package,” and it comes up just about every other year. It smooths the way to tax reform because tax breaks that are actually permanent, but scored as temporary, make it harder to amend those taxes. Change appears more expensive than it really is. [Full vote explanation here.](#)

Final vote of the year was on the **omnibus bill**, which combined 12 departments of spending into one and added \$50 billion in spending that was not offset – which means it simply gets added to the deficit. Accordingly, I voted against this \$1.15 trillion bill. [Full vote explanation here.](#)

Introduced the **Debt Limit Control and Accountability Act of 2015**. It is important because the Founding Fathers gave only Congress the power to raise taxes and pay debts, and this bill reasserts Congress's constitutional responsibility to pay the nation's debts. [Full vote explanation here](#).

One of the harder votes I cast this year was against the **National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016**. I did so due to the way it ignores existing spending limits for defense. Voting against a bill that funds the military is not what I wanted to do because I believe providing for the national defense is one of the few core constitutional responsibilities of the federal government. [Full vote explanation here](#).

**Highway Trust Fund**. I serve on the Transportation Committee, and it was a particularly busy year that saw the passage of a five-year highway bill. Ultimately, on the floor, I did not support the bill because of its bizarre pay-fors: eliminating the Federal Reserve rainy day fund, taxing banks, tinkering with crop insurance, and the like. I think many can agree that we'd like to see better roads and bridges, but paying for them with gimmicks isn't the right way to go about doing that. [Full vote explanation here](#).

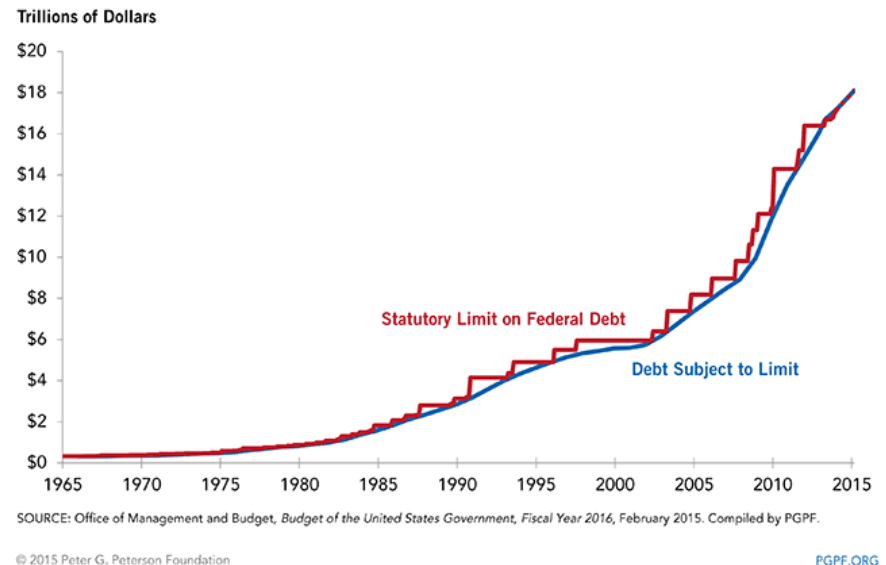
Introduced the **Highway Restoration Act of 2015**, which would address the funding problems of the Highway Trust Fund by phasing out mass transit spending over a five year period and, accordingly, cut the annual deficit from the Highway Trust Fund in half. [Full vote explanation here](#).

#### Key Cosponsorships:

- **Balanced Budget Amendment to Constitution**, which would require a balanced federal budget and prohibit spending in excess of 20% of GDP, unless two-thirds of each house of Congress provides a specific increase.
- **Federal Reserve Transparency Act**, which would audit the Federal Reserve.
- **Budget and Accounting Transparency Act**, which would revise the budgetary treatment of federal loans and loan guarantees to account for them on a fair value basis.
- **Default Prevention Act**, which would require Treasury to continue to borrow to pay the principal and interest on debt held by the public or the Social Security trust funds, if the debt of the U.S. exceeds the statutory limit; it also would prohibit paying the salary of members of Congress while the debt limit is exceeded.



Debt subject to limit and the statutory limit on federal debt since 1965.



# Expanding Freedom and Protecting Civil Liberty

*"The liberties of our country, the freedom of our civil constitution, are worth defending against all hazards: And it is our duty to defend them against all attacks."*  
– Samuel Adams

Introduced the **Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act of 2015** to remove the travel ban to Cuba that has been in place for more than 50 years. This bill is part of a bipartisan effort to protect every United States citizen's constitutional right to travel. [Read more here.](#)

Voted against the **USA Freedom Act**, a bill I originally cosponsored, because of changes made to the proposal. These changes would allow the NSA to collect information on American citizens without a specific target and would also compel telephone and technology companies to provide large amounts of data to the NSA indiscriminately.

Co-authored [an op-ed published in The Post & Courier](#) with Senator Rand Paul, discussing how the bill violates our Fourth Amendment rights against illegal searches and seizures. I also opposed the **Intelligence Authorization Act for 2015** because it didn't go far enough to rein in the NSA and protect individual liberty and privacy. [Full vote explanation here.](#)

## House Freedom Caucus

I am a part of what's called the House Freedom Caucus. It's comprised of many of Congress's most conservative members, and I was asked to join when it launched this spring. With roughly forty members, it makes up less than ten percent of the House but has had disproportionate influence. The Freedom Caucus's mission statement is: "To give a voice to countless Americans who feel Washington doesn't represent them. We support open, accountable and limited government, the Constitution and the rule of law, and policies that promote the liberty, safety and prosperity of all Americans."

In the 1990s when I began talking about the debt, deficit, and unsustainable government spending, I suppose I was seen as an outlier. But returning to Congress 14 years later, things are different. What's embodied by the House Freedom Caucus is a greater sense of urgency about tackling the tough issues and ultimately changing the way Washington works—restoring power back to the people.

*"The Freedom Caucus is a rebellion that could change the GOP's future...as Margaret Thatcher said: First you win the argument, then you win the vote. To a great extent, the Freedom Caucus is telling GOP leadership that it has forgotten to win the argument of conservatism. In many cases, it has not even shown much desire to make the argument."*

**TIME**  
October 13, 2015



### Key Cosponsorships:

- **First Amendment Defense Act**, which would prohibit the federal government from taking discriminatory action against a person who believes or acts in accordance with their faith.
- **Email Privacy Act**, which would prohibit warrantless searches of individual's private emails.
- **FAIR Act**, which would modify general rules governing civil forfeiture proceedings.
- **Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act**, which would allow a person who is carrying a valid permit issued in any state to carry a concealed firearm, to possess or carry a concealed firearm in any other state that permits residents to carry a concealed firearm, in accordance with the restrictions of that state.

## Preserving Quality of Life in the Lowcountry

*Growing up in the Lowcountry, I've found truth in John Muir's words, "In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks." As Governor, my administration preserved more land than any other governor in South Carolina history, and I remain committed to maintaining the unique look and feel of this place we call home.*

### Offshore Drilling

Announced opposition to offshore drilling off the coast of South Carolina. I did so based on my concern over the look and feel of our coastline, the public opposition from coastal towns in the First District, and the limited involvement South Carolinians would have in the decision on whether to proceed with drilling. Additionally, I offered an amendment to the Interior Appropriations Bill that would prevent offshore drilling in the mid-Atlantic. [Read more here.](#)

## Congressmen join Sanford opposing offshore testing, drilling

BY BO PETERSEN

More than 30 members of Congress have joined U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford's in calling on federal regulators to halt the approval process for oil and natural gas testing and drilling offshore.

Twenty-five Democrats and eight Republicans, led by Sanford, R-S.C., and Rep. Bobby Scott, D-Va., signed a letter to Abigail Ross Hopper, Bureau

of Ocean Energy Management director.

They request the bureau conduct a new environmental assessment of the proposed work "based on the many studies that show harm to fisheries and marine mammals due to human-produced noise, including seismic airgun testing."

BOEM has not received the letter and declined to comment, said spokeswoman Blossom Robinson on Thursday afternoon.

In seismic tests, powerfully loud air guns are fired repeatedly underwater to read "echoes" from the bottom geology. The tests can open the way for drilling test wells.

How much the seismic gun noise disturbs endangered species such as the right whale and sea turtles is a contested issue between environmental and industry interests; leasing in offshore waters has tended to

include some noise, season and distance restrictions to protect the creatures.

Seismic guns emit sound blasts that can deafen and injure marine animals, according to studies by the Navy and other groups. But they have been used for 30 years by research groups as well as the in-

dustry, and extensively in the Gulf of Mexico.

The issue cuts to the heart of coastal life, where people appear to largely support curbing exploration to protect dolphins, whales, sea turtles and other marine life, as well as a billion-dollar tourism economy. Nearly 90 municipalities along the Atlantic

Coast, including nearly all in South Carolina, have passed resolutions opposing the work.



Sanford

## The Post and Courier

Friday, December 11, 2015

Cosponsored legislation **H.R. 1814 to permanently reauthorize the Land Water Conservation Fund**. The original “contract” between the environmental community and those involved in natural resource extraction was that the Fund would collect royalties from oil and gas leases on federal land (and therefore owned by the public) and use the proceeds to buy and maintain land to be enjoyed by the public. While the Land and Water Conservation Fund may have expired at the end of September, there is a great deal of support in Congress to permanently reauthorize the Fund. I am one of 197 Representatives who have cosponsored this bill, and I am hopeful that it will soon come to the House floor for a vote.

### Transfer of Guantanamo Detainees

This past August, the Obama Administration started pressing the issue of closing the prison on Guantanamo Bay. In order to do so, they would need to transfer detainees to facilities in the United States, and one of the sites being considered is the Consolidated Naval Brig in Charleston. But doing so would be unlawful, according to the National Defense Authorization Act of 2015, which the President himself signed into law. **I voiced my opposition in a letter to the Department of Defense** and called for an immediate halt to any potential transfer of detainees. [Read more here.](#)



## Making Our Country More Competitive

*Four Star General George S. Patton was infamous for his hardline leadership style during World War II, yet he achieved remarkable results from those under his command. Though he was certainly a tough boss, I think he hit on something when he said, “Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity.” General Patton’s thought is one that Washington could apply in a lot of different places, especially as it relates to running your own business, the economy at large, and the notion that more government regulation generally gets in the way of innovation.*

One of the more consistent themes I’ve heard from small business owners is about the regulatory and financial burden stemming from Washington—and specifically Obamacare. As a member of the House Budget Committee, we approved legislation known as a reconciliation bill that included provisions repealing parts of Obamacare. As you may know, **I have supported a full repeal of the Affordable Care Act** in the past, and I believe this bill was another step in the right direction moving towards a health care system that gives consumers more choice. [Full vote explanation here.](#)

Voted in favor of the **Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act**, which seeks to make compensation mandatory for victims of frivolous lawsuits – meaning the claim has no basis in law or fact – and requires sanctions against the person making a frivolous claim as well as their lawyer. Essentially, this represents the House trying to bring some accountability into the legal process. [Full vote explanation here.](#)

Voted for the **Federal Reserve Oversight Reform Act (FORM Act)**, which would give more representation to different parts of the country on the Federal Reserve’s board (and less to New York), add transparency requirements to the Fed’s decision-making process,

and require the Fed to follow some rules intended to keep inflation under control. It would also require a yearly Government Accountability Office audit on the full scope of Fed operations – something that’s not being done now. Those measures are good steps towards making sure that executive agencies are accountable to the people they govern. [Full vote explanation here.](#)

Cosponsored the **Regulations for the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act**, which brings greater accountability in the regulatory process. It would require all new, “major” regulations – meaning those rules that have an annual, estimated impact of \$100 million or more – to be voted on by Congress and signed into law by the President before they go into effect. [Full vote explanation here.](#)

#### Key Cosponsorships:

- **Obamacare Repeal Act**, which would repeal the Affordable Care Act.
- **Death Tax Repeal Act**, which would repeal the estate tax.
- **FairTax Act**, which would replace the current federal tax system with a 23% national sales tax.
- **Protect Medical Innovation Act**, which would repeal the excise tax on medical device manufacturers and importers.
- **Renewable Fuel Standard Elimination Act**, which would repeal the EPA’s renewable fuel program that requires transportation fuel to contain a minimum volume of renewable fuel.

## Upholding the Rule of Law

*I believe John Adams put it best when he said what separates the American system of government from others is that we are “a government of laws, and not of men.” What I mean by that is this: our Constitution carefully set the authority of each branch of government so that no one individual – including a President – would have the full force of the law. Americans should be governed by clearly written laws, which they consented to through their Representatives.*

#### Enforcing Immigration Law

Voted in favor of the **Enforce the Law for Sanctuary Cities Act**, which passed the House by a vote of 241-179. This bill simply denies sanctuary cities and states from receiving grant money from three programs within the Department of Justice, which are designed to aid state and local law enforcement agencies in upholding the law. [Full vote explanation here.](#)

#### Syrian Refugee Resettlement

Cosponsored and voted for the **American Security Against Foreign Enemies (SAFE) Act of 2015**, which passed in the House. This bill pauses the resettlement of Syrian and Iraqi refugees in the United States until we can put the necessary measures in place to vet them. [Full vote explanation here.](#)

### THE ISLAND PACKET

NOVEMBER 18, 2015

Sanford supports suspension of federal plan to accept Syrian refugees

*“I think we need to press the pause button on the resettlement of Syrian and Iraqi refugees in the United States until we can put the necessary measures and protocols in place to vet them.”*



## Iran Nuclear Deal

Cosponsored **Rep. Peter Roskam's Resolution** along with 219 other members of Congress, **to express disapproval with President Obama's proposed Iran Nuclear Deal**. It seems to me that the Obama Administration could have better heeded the advice of President Reagan – “Trust, but verify” – and the more we lack in trust, the greater we should verify. [Read more here](#).



*Rep. Sanford Speaks against the Iran Nuclear Deal*

### Key Cosponsorships:

- **Birthright Citizenship Act**, which would limit the ability to grant automatic citizenship to children born in the United States to non-citizen parents.
- **Refugee Resettlement Oversight and Security Act**, which would require the President to submit a plan to Congress that outlines the number of refugees he wishes to relocated to the United States. This bill halts all incoming refugees and requires that the DHS, FBI, and Director of National Intelligence certify the background checks of each admitted refugee.
- **America Security Against Foreign Enemies (SAFE) Act** would put in place more robust screening and vetting processes for refugees.
- **Mobilizing Against Sanctuary Cities Act**, which would strip federal funding for states or localities that resist or ban enforcement of federal immigration laws or flatly refuse to cooperate with immigration officials.

## In Memoriam

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good (Romans 12:21),” and the spirit of that verse was in full display following last year’s tragic shooting at Mother Emanuel AME in Charleston. In a remarkable gesture of faith, humility, and grace, the families of the nine victims did the unimaginable as they spoke the words “I forgive you” in the face of incomprehensible malice. It’s this reaction that set the stage for a level of community I’ve never before seen in my life, and it’s for that reason we will never forget the “Emanuel Nine.”



CYNTHIA HURD • SUSIE JACKSON • ETHEL LANCE • DEPAYNE MIDDLETON-DOCTOR • CLEMENTA PINCKNEY  
TYWANZA SANDERS • DANIEL SIMMONS • SHARONDA COLEMAN-SINGLETON • MYRA THOMPSON